



CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
Department of Toxic Substances Control

## Media Release

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Deborah O. Raphael, Director

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### DTSC releases guidance to clean up hazardous properties and protect people from exposure to hazardous chemicals.



**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** – The Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has issued a step by step guide to help deal with hazardous chemicals that may be released into buildings and the environment. ***The Final Guidance for the Evaluation and Mitigation of Subsurface Vapor Intrusion to Indoor Air*** will assist contractors, cleanup agencies and community groups in evaluating the health threat from properties contaminated with volatile chemicals.

Hundreds of sites exist in California where volatile chemicals released to the environment have impacted soil and groundwater. These chemicals may subsequently migrate into the indoor air of overlying buildings. This guidance outlines the methods for evaluating exposure and provides recommendations for a comprehensive site investigation.

“This guide is another tool that DTSC is providing to help communities proactively protect themselves from toxic exposure,” said Stewart Black, Acting Deputy Director of DTSC’s Brownfields and Environmental Restoration Program. “Contamination of indoor air by subsurface vapors has been found at many sites throughout California and applying the techniques in this guidance is a one path forward to tackle this significant environmental issue.”

DTSC issued this guidance after considering more than 370 public comments that were received in response to the interim version of the document in 2004.

AB 422 (Hancock) requires that assessments of contaminated properties include an evaluation of the migration of vapors into buildings. The United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is also considering the migration of vapors into buildings as a factor for placing a hazardous waste site on federal Superfund cleanup list.

DTSC anticipates that this guidance will be used by contractors, property developers and community groups among others. The final guidance can be found at

[www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Vapor\\_Intrusion.cfm](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov/SiteCleanup/Vapor_Intrusion.cfm)

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FOR GENERAL INQUIRIES: Contact the Department of Toxic Substances Control by phone at (800) 728-6942 or visit [www.dtsc.ca.gov](http://www.dtsc.ca.gov). To report illegal handling, discharge, or disposal of hazardous waste, call the Waste Alert Hotline at (800) 698-6942.

***The Mission of DTSC is to protect California's people and environment from harmful effects of toxic substances by restoring contaminated properties, identifying and promoting safer ingredients in consumer products, and ensuring stewardship through enforcement, regulation and pollution prevention.***